GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:730
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
CBI RAIDS ON PUBLIC SERVANTS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `ACs for dogs and Cash inMattresses` published in the `Times of India` dated 10th January, 2003 (Delhi edition);

(b)if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c)the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such tendency amongst high ranking officials?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (Sh. GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The CBI who conducted the raids has forwarded a preliminary investigation report in the case of both the concerned officersas under:-

(i) in the case of one officer it has been reported that the during the searches, cash amount of Rs. 1.5 crores including 3 cheques and bank balance of Rs. 51.5 lacs, FDRs worth Rs. 77 lacs,Gold - 3.7 kgs. worth Rs. 15 lacs approx. and properties worth Rs 70lacs including two cars were seized.

(ii) in the case of the other officer it has been reported that investigations have revealed that the officer has assets (moveable as well as immovable) worth Rs.1.22 crores which includes a huge farm house at Jaipur, one flat in a posh locality of Ahmedabad, four vehicles, cash of Rs. 22 lacs recovered from the locker of his wife, huge balances in the bank/PPF accounts etc.

(c) The concerned officers have been placed under suspension. After receipt of final report from the CBI and after consultingCentral Vigilance Commission, if necessary, further action will be taken. Besides, in the Income Tax Department a restructured set up has been put in place under which there is close monitoring by the supervisory officers, which will act as a check on corruption. The vigilance machinery of the Income Tax Department has also been strengthened by upgrading the existing Directorate of Income-tax (Vigilance) to the level of Directorate General of Income-tax (Vigilance). Four Regional Directorates of Income Tax

(Vigilance) have been created at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.